

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Previously Presented) An isolated polypeptide consisting of a portion of CFTR (cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator) protein wherein said portion consists of between 18 and 100 amino acid residues, wherein said portion comprises 18 amino acid residues as shown in SEQ ID NO: 1.
2. (Previously Presented) The polypeptide of claim 1 wherein the portion of CFTR protein comprises 22 amino acid residues as shown in SEQ ID NO: 2.
3. (Currently Amended) The polypeptide of claim ~~8~~ 35 wherein the polypeptide is ~~fused to~~ a membrane-penetrating peptide.
4. (Currently Amended) The polypeptide of claim ~~9~~ 36 wherein the polypeptide is ~~fused to~~ a membrane-penetrating peptide.
5. (Original) The polypeptide of claim 3 wherein the membrane-penetrating peptide is selected from the group consisting of: VP-22 (SEQ ID NO: 3), (SEQ ID NO: 4), and (SEQ ID NO: 5).
6. (Currently Amended) The polypeptide of claim 4 wherein the membrane-penetrating peptide is selected ~~from~~ from the group consisting of: VP-22 (SEQ ID NO: 3), (SEQ ID NO: 4), and (SEQ ID NO: 5).
7. (Previously Presented) The polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the portion of CFTR protein consists of a sequence of amino acid residues as shown in SEQ ID NO: 2, and wherein the portion is free of phosphorylation.
- 8-34. (Canceled)
35. (Previously Presented) An isolated fusion protein consisting of:

a portion of CFTR protein wherein said portion consists of between 18 and 100 amino acid residues, and wherein said portion comprises 18 amino acid residues as shown in SEQ ID NO:1; and

a polypeptide which provides an additional functional property.

36. (Previously Presented) The isolated fusion protein of claim 8 wherein the portion of CFTR protein comprises 22 amino acid residues as shown in SEQ ID NO:2.